

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17. (canceled).

Claim 18. (currently amended) A method for operating a telecommunications network, the method comprising the steps of:

controlling a network element at a network node of the telecommunications network via a control computer;

storing at least one interface program and a plurality of application programs in the control computer in addition to an operating system;

processing application objects during execution of the application programs, the application projects having, depending on their membership of a class, data with a predefined data structure and predefined methods for processing the data;

setting up a link between a service computer and a control computer;

maintenance being performed on the control computer via the link by at least one maintenance message;

processing the maintenance messages, via the interface program, coming from the service computer, each of the maintenance messages containing a class identifier which assigns the maintenance message to a class, the class identifier specifying the class, known in the service computer, of an application object to be processed;

determining an alternative identifier, when the interface program is processed with reference to the class identifier, which indicates an alternative class to which the application object to be processed belongs in the network element, the alternative identifier being incorporated into an amended maintenance message;

storing at least one class known in at least one service computer for the application object as an allomorph class in the data of the application object;

using the allomorph class as an auxiliary identifier when the application program is processed; and

processing the amended maintenance message, wherein the application object to be processed is processed as an object of the alternative class by an application program.

Claim 19. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 18, wherein when the alternative identifier is determined, a first table stored in a memory of the control computer is used, in which table the alternative identifier is assigned to the class identifier.

Claim 20. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 18, the method further comprising the step of:

generating a confirmation message, via the application program and after the processing of the amended maintenance message, in which the class specified when the application object to be processed to be generated is specified.

Claim 21. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 20, the method further comprising the steps of:

generating an amended confirmation message from the confirmation message, when the interface program is processed, the amended confirmation message containing only data which has an application object of the class to which the confirmation message relays; and

transmitting the amended confirmation message to the service computer.

Claim 22. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 20, the method further comprising the steps of:

storing the class specified, when the application object to be processed is generated, as an origin class in the data of the application object to be processed; and

using the origin class as a class identifier when the application program is processed.

Claim 23. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 20 wherein the confirmation message contains an identifier in which at least one class is designated which is known in the service computer as the class to which the application object to be processed belongs.

Claim 24. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 23, wherein the confirmation message contains, in addition to the class identifier, an origin identifier in which the origin class is specified.

Claim 25. (canceled)

Claim 26. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 21, wherein a confirmation message which is generated for the service computer when the interface program is being processed contains the class identifier and the origin identifier, and possibly an identifier in which at least one class is designated.

Claim 27. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the network element is selected from the group consisting of a switching office, a cross-connector and a concentrator unit.

Claim 28. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the telecommunications network is selected from the group consisting of a fixed network, a mobile radio network, and a network with a fixed network component and a mobile radio network component.

Claim 29. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the interface program carries out further interface functions between the service computer and the application programs, including at least one of an events control for defining a processing sequence of the maintenance messages, and adaptation of the messages coming from the service computer to a protocol for transmitting messages within the control computer, and an adaptation of the confirmation messages coming from the application programs to a predefined protocol for transmitting messages between the service computer and the control computer.

Claim 30. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 18, the method further comprising at least one of the following steps: using a first application program for subscriber administration;

using a second application program for administering connecting lines to other switching devices;

using a third application program for performing maintenance on the switching devices;
and

using a fourth application program for measuring traffic on the switched links.

Claim 31. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the application objects of the first application program contain the subscriber data for one subscriber in each case.

Claim 32. (previously presented) A method for operating a telecommunications network as claimed in Claim 18, wherein the maintenance messages contain a name identifier for a name of the application object to which the maintenance message relays.

Claim 33. (currently amended) A network element for operating a telecommunications network, comprising:

a control computer for controlling the network element, at least one interface program and a plurality of application programs being stored in the control computer in addition to an operating system, application objects being processed during execution of the application programs, the application objects having, depending on their membership of a class, data with a predefined data structure and predefined methods for processing the data; and

a service computer connected to the control computer via a link, maintenance being performed on the control computer by at least one maintenance message, the interface program processing the maintenance message is coming from the service computer, each of the maintenance messages containing a class identifier which assigns the maintenance message to a class, the class identifier of the maintenance message specifying the class as an allomorph class in the data of the application object, known in the service computer, of an application object to be processed, when the interface program is processed with reference to the class identifier an

alternative identifier is determined according to the allomorph class which indicates an alternative class to which the application object to be processed belongs in the network element, the alternative identifier being incorporated into an amended maintenance message, and when the amended maintenance message is processed, the application object to be processed is processed as an object of the alternative class by an application program.

Claim 34. (currently amended) A telecommunications network comprising a plurality of network elements, wherein at least one of the plurality of network elements is for operating the telecommunications network, the network elements comprising:

a control computer for controlling the network element, at least one interface program and a plurality of application programs being stored in the control computer in addition to an operating system, application objects being processed during execution of the application programs, the application objects having, depending on their membership of a class, data with a predefined data structure and predefined methods for processing the data; and

a service computer connected to the control computer via a link, maintenance being performed on the control computer by at least one maintenance message, the interface program processing the maintenance message is coming from the service computer, each of the maintenance messages containing a class identifier which assigns the maintenance message to a class, the class identifier of the maintenance message specifying the class as an allomorph class in the data of the application object, known in the service computer, of an application object to be processed, when the interface program is processed with reference to the class identifier an alternative identifier is determined according to the allomorph class which indicates an alternative class to which the application object to be processed belongs in the network element, the alternative identifier being incorporated into an amended maintenance message, and when the amended maintenance message is processed, the application object to be processed is processed as an object of the alternative class by an application program.